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GARSTANG
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1954

"HERALD"
PRESTON.

GARSTANG
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1954

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR E. ROBINSON, J.P.

Public Health Committee:

THE WHOLE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. THORNTON.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR W. HELME.

Clerk of the Council:

H. BOND, A.C.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time):

ANDREW B. TAYLOR, M.B., CH.B.

Sanitary Inspector:

A. SMITHSON, CERT.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

F. C. WESTON, CERT.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
(appointed 3rd August, 1954)

Sanitary Inspector's Assistant:

J. B. COOK.

Clerk:

MISS S. HAMPSON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the
Garstang Rural District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Fourteenth Annual Report of the health in the Garstang Rural Area in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1954, together with the vital statistics relating to that period.

The general health of the District continues to be satisfactory.

There has been an increase of 16 deaths as compared with the previous year, and during the same period the number of births has increased by 63. Statistics show that this is the highest number of births recorded since 1910.

The number of deaths from Cancer (all forms) shows a slight increase from the previous year, but the death rate in this area is slightly below that for England and Wales.

No case of Food Poisoning has been notified during 1954.

The Ambulance Service which was operated from the Garstang Station functioned efficiently, and was a distinct advantage to the residents of the District. The Station was closed on the 20th December, 1954, when the vehicles and personnel were transferred to the County Headquarters at Broughton, some 8 miles away. It is hoped that the transfer will not adversely affect this Service.

During the year connections from properties on the line of the Cabus—Garstang—Churchtown Sewerage Scheme were completed. Other works of sewerage are contemplated in the Parishes of Pilling, Hambleton and Forton.

A number of private slaughterhouses were licensed following the Government's decision to end meat rationing in July, and an additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed to deal with the Council's responsibility for meat inspection.

I would like to express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and staff of the Health department, also the Clerk of the Council, for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW B. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Position ... Latitude 53° 54″ North. Longitude 2° 47″ West.

Elevation above sea level ... 0 feet to 1,675 feet.

Geological formation... Eastern Highlands—Millstone grit. Western Lowlands—Glacial clay on triassic sandstone with patches of alluvium.

Chief Industries carried on in the Area ... Mainly Agricultural and Poultry Farming; Market Gardening; Milk Processing and Cheese Making; Textile Manufacturing; Paper Making and Pre-Cast Products. A number of men are employed in the building trades, and a number of residents are employed in the neighbouring towns.

Area (Acres)	57,491
Population (Census 1951)	12,706
Registrar-General's Estimated mid-year Home Population, 1954	12,860
Density of population per Acre	.22
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1951)	3,643
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1954 according to Rate Books	3,895
Density of houses per Acre	.07
Average number of persons per house	3.3
Rateable Value	£81,374
Sum represented by a penny rate	£323

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	*Male*	*Female*
Live Births	Legitimate ...	238	127	111
	Illegitimate ...	4	3	1
		242	130	112
Still Births		3	2	1
Deaths		157	80	77

... Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	Total	*Male*	*Female*
Legitimate	6	2	4
Illegitimate	1	1	—
	7	3	4

Death of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

	Total	*Male*	*Female*
Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	1	1	—
	6	3	3

Year	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1954	242	*18·8	157	*12·2	3	12	...	...	7	29	6	25
1953	179	14·1	141	11·1	2	11	...	...	7	39	4	22
1952	207	16·3	153	12·0	7	33	...	...	5	24	2	10
1951	209	16·6	172	13·6	7	32	...	...	5	24	4	19
1950	186	14·8	150	11·9	6	31	1	5·21	4	22	1	5
1949	181	14·4	146	11·6	10	52	2	10·47	7	39	...	...
Avge. 5 yrs., 1949–53	...	15·24	...	12·04	...	31·8	...	3·14	...	29·6	...	

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1·09) = 20·5 per 1,000.
death-rate (comparability factor, 0·95) = 11·6 per 1,000.

Births.

There were 242 live births, 130 being males and 112 females. 238 of these births were legitimate and 4 illegitimate. The birth rate (adjusted) per 1,000 of the population was 20.5, against 15.2 for England and Wales.

Still Births.

The number of still births in 1954 was 3, giving a still birth rate of 12 per 1,000 total births. The rate per 1,000 total population is 0.23 as compared with a rate of 0.36 for England and Wales.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths was 157 comprising 80 males and 77 females, giving a death rate (adjusted) of 11.6 per 1,000 of the population. For England and Wales the rate is 11.3.

The death rate for infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births is 29. For England and Wales, the death rate is 25.5.

Neo-natal mortality—deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age, 6. Mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 25.

Causes of Death.

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	1	1
,, other	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	2	1	3
,, ,, lung, bronchus ...	4	0	4
,, ,, breast	0	4	4
,, ,, uterus	0	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	7	14
Diabetes	1	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	14	13	27
Heart Diseases	32	32	64
Pneumonia	0	1	1
Bronchitis	3	5	8
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	0	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostrate	1	0	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	9	13
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	2	4
All other accidents	2	0	2
Suicide	2	0	2
	80	77	157

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality during 1954.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1— 5 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45 ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65 ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	4	2	1	...	...	1	...	...
	6		1		1		...	

Death rate for Tuberculosis for 1954 was 0.08, which shows a decrease of 0.23 over 1953. Rate for England and Wales, 0.18.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1954.

Total Cases Notified and Ages.

Disease	Total No. of Cases	Under 1	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Cases removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	13	...	2	4	6	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	26	...	...	8	14	4	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	78	5	19	15	32	4	...	3	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Dysentery	10	...	...	...	2	2	3	1	2	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	128	5	21	27	54	11	3	4	3	..	...

Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever—Thirteen cases notified during 1954 (1953—15 cases).

Diphtheria—None.

Pneumonia—None (1953—2 cases).

Puerperal Pyrexia—None (1953—1 case).

Poliomyelitis—None (One paralytic case of Acute Poliomyelitis was notified in 1953).

Measles—A decrease of 122 cases.

Whooping Cough—Seventy-eight cases were notified during the year (1953—17 cases).

Erysipelas—One case against one for 1953.

Dysentery—Ten cases against none in 1953.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No case of Food Poisoning was notified during the year.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the District is under the administration of the Lancashire County Council Health Division Nos. 3 and 4, as under:

Health Division 3:	Parishes of:—	
Hambleton	Out Rawcliffe Stalmine	Pilling

Health Division 4:	Parishes of:—	
Barnacre-with-Bonds	Bilsborrow	Bleasdale
Cabus	Catterall	Claughton
Forton	Garstang	Great Eccleston
Inskip-with-Sowerby	Kirkland	Myerscough
Nateby	Nether Wyresdale	Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre
	Winmarleigh	

Health Services.

The general health services, including ante-natal, midwifery, School Clinics, health visiting, home helps, ambulance, etc., are administered by the County Council and appear satisfactory.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Venereal Disease Treatment Centres are under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board.

Hospital Accommodation.

There are no hospitals in the area. Cases are sent to Preston, Lancaster, Blackpool, etc.

The district is provided with hospital accommodation for smallpox at Bury and for Infectious diseases at Preston, Blackpool and Lancaster.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, S.47.

Number of applications made during the year	Nil
Number of Orders made	Nil

Laboratory Facilities.

Swabs, specimens of sputum, etc., and samples of milk, ice-cream, water, and other foods for bacteriological and biological examination are taken to the pathological departments of Preston Royal Infirmary and Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1954

COUNCIL OFFICES,
GARSTANG

To the Chairman and Members of the,
Garstang Rural District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report of the Sanitary Circumstances of your District for the year 1954.

Water Supply.

The bulk of the water is supplied to the district by the Fylde Water Board, and is upland surface water of excellent quality. No complaints as to the quality of this water were received during the year. In general, the major part of the District is adequately supplied either from this source or from three small private supplies. The remainder of the houses derive their source of supply from wells and springs.

Sixty samples of water were obtained from private supplies with the following results:—

Bacteriological:—		Chemical:—	
Satisfactory ...	... 48	Satisfactory ...	... 1
Unsatisfactory	... 11	Unsatisfactory	... —

During the year, an extension of the Fylde Water Board's mains was carried out in part of the Holleth area in the Parish of Forton for 3 farms and 1 dwelling house. By the end of the year, one of these farms had been connected thereto.

Details of Water Supplies to Dwelling Houses, Farms, Hotels, Etc. 31.12.54.

PARISH	No. of Houses, etc.	FYLDE		TH.	PRIVATE SUPPLIES								CARAVAN SITES		SCHOOLS	
					Burdock			Oak	Cl.	Others						
		In	C.	In	In	Out	C.	In	In	In	Out	C.	F.	P.	F.	P.
Barnacre-with-Bonds	388	324	—	2	17	1	2	1	—	34	7	—	—	—	2	1
Bilsborrow	95	83	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	—	—	—	1	—
Bleasdale...	56	1	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	32	5	4	—	—	—	1
Cabus	144	142	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6	—	—	—
Catterall...	164	158	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	1	—	—	—
Claughton	131	68	2	—	—	—	—	—	38	9	9	5	—	—	—	1
Forton	268	248	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	10	1	—	—	1	—
Garstang...	515	515	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Great Eccleston...	229	228	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Hambleton	222	221	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—
Inskip-with-Sowerby	139	135	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—
Kirkland...	87	86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Myerscough	174	161	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	1	—	—	1	—	—
Nateby	79	78	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nether Wyresdale	165	98	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	41	8	10	1	1	1	—
Out Rawcliffe	169	165	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Pilling	437	423	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	—	2	—	3	—
Stalmine	204	203	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	1	—
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre ...	144	144	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Winmarleigh	85	82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	—
TOTAL	3,895	3,563	12	10	17	1	2	15	38	146	71	20	20	2	20	3

KEY : TH.—Thirlmere supply. F. —Fylde supply. OAK.—Oakenclough supply. P. —Private supply. CL.—Claughton supply. C. —Carried.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Council undertake the removal of domestic refuse in the twenty parishes.

Collection of household refuse and salvage was carried out by two Bedford and one Dennis 7 and 10 cubic yard side-loading vehicles, manned by nine loaders, inclusive of drivers.

Refuse was disposed of at the Gravel Works, Scorton, and farm " pits " situated in various parts of the district.

Every endeavour is made with the limited number of vehicles, men, and covering material, to dispose of the refuse with as little nuisance as possible.

Salvage.

The Council continued with the collection of waste paper and other forms of salvage. The amount realised from the sale of the 49 tons collected, was £344.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The " House Connections ", with few exceptions, for the main Garstang Sewerage Scheme were completed by the end of the year. It is estimated that 942 houses and other premises are now connected to these sewers. The approximate cost of the scheme, including the Disposal Works at Churchtown, Sewers and House Connections is £175,000.

At Pilling, an extension to the Council's sewer was carried out for the benefit of 14 houses and cafes. This should alleviate most of the pollution which has occurred in the School Lane watercourse.

Parts of the parishes of Barnacre-with-Bonds (Calder Vale), Forton, Nether Wyresdale (Scorton) and Pilling are provided with septic tanks and filters.

The sewers for the parish of Great Eccleston discharge into the tidal waters of the River Wyre.

In the case of other areas where sewers are not available, the majority of the houses are provided with septic tanks.

Fifty-seven pail closets and five privy middens were converted to fresh-water closets during the year.

Sanitary Accommodation (at end of 1954)

Number of middens	84
Number of closets attached thereto	91
Number of pail closets	572
Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) ...	—
Number of moveable dustbins	3493
Number of trough closets	6
Number of waste water closets	—
Number of fresh water closets	3789

Public Conveniences.

Public conveniences are provided in the parishes of Garstang, Great Eccleston and Pilling and although they serve a very useful purpose, they are, unfortunately, misused too often. With the increase in the amount of road traffic, it would appear that Public Conveniences are required in suitable places on the A6 and A586 roads.

Sanitary Inspections.

Ashpits	6
Bakehouses	25
Butchers' Shops	38
Dairies	9
Dairy Farms	1
Dirty Premises	25
Disinfections	14
Drains and Sewers...	244
Dust Bins	33
Egg Packers	6
Factories	147
Fish Friers...	11
Food preparation premises	130
Food Poisoning	0
Hawkers	11
Houses	271
Housing, Improvement Grants	10
Houses (Council)	15
Houses, applications	360
Ice-cream premises	87
Infestations	12
Infectious diseases	64
Knacker's Yard	51
Market	46
Moveable dwellings	184
Manure, Accumulation of	9
Persons, Old and Infirm (National Assistance Act)	3
Petroleum Regulations	26
Piggeries	10
Public Cleansing and Salvage	275
Public Conveniences	59
Public Houses	22
Rodent Control	28
Schools	23
School Kitchens	7
Shops and Offices	222
Sanitary Accommodation:–	
Pails and Privies	12
Conversions	68
Septic Tanks	31
Slaughterhouses	590
Streams and Ditches	22
Smoke Observations, etc.	7
Swimming Pools	6
Water supplies	38
Various	141

MEAT INSPECTION.

Number of slaughterhouses licensed 10
Number of licences issued to slaughtermen during 1954 ... 31

Summary of Carcases Inspected and Condemned (5.7.54—31.12.54)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	389	37	39	2,133	843
Number inspected	389	37	39	2,133	843
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	0	2	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	82	11	0	88	43
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	21·34	29·73	5·13	4·21	5·22
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned ...	0	1	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	31	10	0	0	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	8·23	29·73	0	0	4·15

Number of carcases found to be affected with cysticercus bovis 0

Number of pigs certified under the Livestock Guarantee Scheme 38

Food Premises.

Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at end of year:—

General grocers and provision dealers 58

Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc. 5

Fishmongers 1

Meat shops, (butchers, purveyors of cooked and processed meats, etc.) 10

Bakers and/or confectioners 3

Fried fish shops 5

Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc. 10

Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars 63

Number of food premises, by type, registered under S.14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under local Acts:—

Type of Business	*No. registered at* 31.12.54	*No. of inspections of registered premises during year*
Ice Cream, Manufacture and Sale	50	87
Fish Friers	5	11
Sausages, Potted and preserved foods Manufacture	10	31

Unsound Food.

From Slaughterhouses:—

Tubercular meat	1,574 lbs.
Non-Tubercular meat	1,757 lbs.

From Shops:—

Tinned meat, fruit and fish (8)	26 lbs.

All condemned meat from slaughterhouses is stained green and then either sent to the local Knacker's Yard or to a Processor. Unsound tinned foods are buried at the tip.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 106 samples of milk and 33 samples of other foodstuffs were obtained by the County Council. In no case was it necessary to institute legal proceedings.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of distributors registered by the local authority and operating from:—

(a) Dairies in the district	3
(b) Dairy farms in the district	5
(c) Premises outside the district	8

Number of dealers' licences issued during 1954:—

Tuberculin Tested milk	13
Pasteurised milk	10
Sterilised milk	1

Practically all the milk consumed in the area is produced within the Rural District.

Regular sampling of all supplies are carried out for biological and bacteriological examination and the following show the results of the samples taken:

Raw Milk:	*No. of samples*	*No. Positive*	*No. Negative*
Tuberculosis	53	—	53
	No. of Samples	*No. Satisfactory*	*No. Unsatisfactory*
Bacteriological			
Methylene Blue	53	50	3
B. Coli	53	44	9
	No. of Samples	*No. Satisfactory*	*No. Unsatisfactory*
Heat Treated Milk:			
Phosphatase Test	4	4	...
Methylene Blue Test	4	4	...

Number of notifications of tuberculosis milk forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in respect of milk produced in the district ... ... —

Results of Ministry investigations during the year arising from notifications by the local authority:

Number of veterinary inspections ... ... —
„ „ cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938 ... ... —
„ „ animals seized ... ... —
„ „ cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to investigation ... ... —
„ „ cases reported negative, no animals seized ... —

There are two pasteurising plants within the area which are licensed by the County Council. Thirty-two samples of milk were obtained by the County Council during the year, all of which satisfied the prescribed tests.

All milk supplied to the schools in the district is either T.T., or Pasteurised.

Ice Cream.

During the year, 34 samples of Ice Cream and 2 samples of Iced Lollies were taken.

Analysis of the 34 samples show the following:—

Grade 1	25	samples	or	73.5%	of	the	total samples
2	5	„	„	14.7%	„	„	„ „
3	3	„	„	8.8%	„	„	„ „
4	1	„	„	3.0%	„	„	„ „

Of the 34 samples examined 29 were of ice-cream manufactured outside the Rural District and 5 were from ice-cream manufactured within the district. The following is a table showing the respective grading:—

			Made out of district		*Made within district*
Grade 1	...	...	21	...	4
2	...	...	4	...	1
3	...	...	3	...	—
4	...	...	1	...	—
			29		5

Iced Lollies.

Number satisfactory 2. Unsatisfactory 0.

Markets.

There is one market, situated in Garstang, under the control of the Garstang Town Trust which was regularly inspected.

Offensive Trades.

There is one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district, situated in the Parish of Catterall. The premises are regularly inspected and have been found satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement.

Few complaints were received during the year regarding alleged smoke nuisances. These were investigated and appropriate action was taken where necessary.

In one case it was found that the existing plant at a factory was unsuitable and insufficient for the type and quantity of waste burnt. The owner was found to be very co-operative and a new boiler is now awaiting delivery.

Moveable Dwellings.

Number of licensed caravan sites—22.

Number of licences issued during 1954 for individual caravans—31.

Number (approx.) of caravans stationed in the district, August, 1954—689.

Number of caravans used for permanent habitation—187.

The licensed caravan sites, with two exceptions, have public water supplies and the majority of the sites are provided with fresh-water closets to septic tanks.

The owner of a moveable dwelling was prosecuted for stationing a caravan in the area without a licence. The magistrates imposed a fine of £1 and a daily penalty of £2 per day failing the removal of the caravan within 14 days.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public baths or pools within the area, although a private swimming bath has been provided by the owner on one of the caravan sites. The water is pumped from a well and receives no treatment.

Shops and Offices.

Two-hundred-and-twenty-two inspections were carried out.

The majority of the shops in the area are family concerns, employing few or no assistants. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

Schools.

There are in the Rural District 23 schools. In general, the external fabric of the buildings is good.

The lighting and ventilation, except for a few isolated classrooms, are generally good.

In most schools some form of central heating is provided, sometimes augmented by open fires and slow combustion stoves. Six schools have no central heating.

Twenty schools are provided with water from the Fylde Water Board and three from private supplies.

In some cases the yard surfaces are rough, uneven and defective on which rain lodges in wet weather and the surfaces are muddy, whilst in dry weather clouds of dust are raised by the feet of the children during recreation.

The sanitary accommodation at the schools consists of:

Fresh-water closets	20
Trough closets	1
Pail closets	2

School meals are provided from the school kitchens at Bilsborrow, Garstang, Fleetwood, Galgate and Kirkham, which are under the control of the County Council.

Housing.

Number of dwelling houses erected during the year:

Total	102
(i) By Local Authority	64
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	38

Since 1945, 591 houses have been erected, of which 452 were Council houses and the remaining 139 for private use.

The Council's housing register revealed at the 31st December, 1954, that there were 259 outstanding applications for Council houses. These were made up as follows:—

76 from persons living in rooms.

25 from persons living in moveable dwellings.

142 from tenants of houses.

16 from single persons.

Number of applications from persons, either living or working in the district, and living in rooms or wishing to marry—72.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year—*

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 162

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 318

(2) (a) Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 16

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 37

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 12

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation... 74

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 42

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners ... ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 3

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners 3

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 1

Number of undertakings given and accepted by the Council not to relet for human habitation 7

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 5

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

E. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:

Without carrying out a detailed survey, it is not possible to give with exactitude the number of houses which are overcrowded, but so far as is known, very little overcrowding exists.

Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 3

Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 16

Housing Acts, 1949-54. Improvement Grants, Etc.

A. (i) Number of schemes submitted:

(a) by private individuals to local authority ... 3

(b) by local authority to Ministry ... ... —

(ii) Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected 4

B. (i) Number of schemes finally approved ... ... —

(ii) Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected ... ... —

(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved schemes ... —

C. Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year ... ... —

D. Any other action taken under the Act ... ... —

Factories.

1.—Inspection of Factories.

No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
122	147	2	Nil

Outworkers.

Number on Register ... ... Nil

Defects Found in Factories.

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) insufficient	4	3	3	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	9	9	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—

Verminous Persons and Premises.

Five houses were treated for cockroaches and fleas and several infestations of ants, wasps, etc., were eradicated by proprietary insecticides.

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out by means of formalin fumigators and eighteen rooms were treated by this method during the year.

Rodent Control.

The Council engage one whole-time rodent operative to carry out the functions under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During the year, 1/4/54—31/3/55, 5,138 inspections were carried out and 256 properties treated for rats and mice.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the chief officials and members of my staff for their great assistance, and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for all their support during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. SMITHSON,

Sanitary Inspector.